

### Remarks

Claims 22-31 are at issue. Claims 22-31 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103 (a), as being unpatentable over Naik et al. (5548647) in view of Higgins (5339385) and further in view of Hakaridani (4516215).

#### Re.: Response to the Arguments:

Hakaridani is concerned with speech recognition, not with speaker verification. In speech recognition it makes senses to use "preliminary selection" to weed out the number of possible choices that might match the utterance. In speaker verification, the spoken utterance is already matched to the presumed correct training utterance. There is no need to weed out possible selection utterances. As an example, under Hakaridani the spoken utterance might be "twenty four" and the possible choices of "speech recognition" might includes all the words 0-99. In the present application and any speaker verification process if the spoken utterance is "twenty four" then it is compared to the training utterance "twenty four" by the purported speaker. There is no need to select out a number of choices. Hakaridani's preliminary selection is irrelevant to the issues surrounding speaker verification. Hakaridani's preliminary selection cannot be used to make a verification decision. Hakaridani is not an appropriate reference, since it does not teach how to perform speaker verification either alone or in combination with the other references cited by the Examiner.

The claims have been amended to make so that there is no doubt that the preliminary decisions are "preliminary verification decisions". This is the only reasonable interpretation of what type of decision the claims meant. Since Hakaridani's "preliminary selection" is for speech recognition, no one skilled in the art could be confused that this reads on "preliminary verification decisions".

Independent claims 22 & 29 are allowable. Claims 23-28 & 30-31 are allowable as being dependent from an allowable base claim.

Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

(Bossemeyer, Jr. et al.)

By   
Attorney for the Applicant  
Dale B. Halling  
Phone: (719) 447-1990  
Fax: (719) 447-0983

I hereby certify that a Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
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Signature (Dale B. Halling)